

CIA Abuse to 'Cover' for Kennedy Charged

Sen. Margaret Chase Smith Alleges Downgrading of Missile Gap Estimates

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Margaret Chase Smith (R-Me.) said Sunday some Democrats are trying to use the Central Intelligence Agency "as a dumping ground for the 1960 campaign statements of candidate Kennedy."

The woman Republican senator referred to statements by Sen. Symington (D-Mo.) and others that a sharp downgrading of estimates on Soviet Russian missile and combat strength by CIA had eliminated the "missile gap."

President Kennedy, Symington and other Democratic speechmakers said in the 1960 presidential campaign that Russia held a wide margin in long-range missiles and blamed the Eisenhower Administration for letting this "missile gap" develop.

In defense appropriations testimony released last week, Symington traced the course of CIA briefings on Soviet missile strength in 1959-60-61 and said, in effect, that the CIA created the "missile gap" up to 1960 and destroyed it in revised estimates in 1961.

Calls It a 'Hot Potato'

Secretary of Defense McNamara agreed the intelligence estimates of Russian strength had been revised downward sharply and said anyone basing 1960 missile gap claims on the then current estimates spoke in good faith.

Questioned about this by Sen. Keating (R-N.Y.) on a program taped for radio-TV use in New York, Mrs. Smith said:

"I'm very skeptical about putting the hot potato of the missile gap on the doorstep of the CIA. The CIA is becoming a catch-all to cover up the 1960 campaign statements of candidate Kennedy which are coming back to haunt him as President.

"I do not have a very high regard for the past work of the CIA, especially after the Cuban fiasco and the U-2 disaster, but apparently it is now being used as a dumping ground for the 1960 campaign statements of candidate Kennedy.

"I believe it needs to have a more useful purpose than that."

Asked about the investigation by a special armed services subcommittee into

declared war in South Vietnam against the Communist guerrillas and Mrs. Smith replied:

"It's no more of an undeclared war than what Russia is doing all over the world. It might even be that the United States, at long last, is standing on its own feet somewhere."

forces, saying, "What was country's system of military reserves and National Guard forces, saying, "What was wrong last year was the haphazard way in which the reservists were called up."

"The hearings have been most inconclusive. I don't see that they have produced any significant accomplishment."

A member of this special probe group, the woman senator said the hearings will go on for a long time with some 40 more witnesses listed to testify on troop training and military participation in public seminars.

Keating asked about claims that the United States is waging an unde-

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